Boston. Tuesday July 7 /57.

My dear Sir —

Yrs. of 2d reached me on Sunday. It seems you had not recd. mine, sent to "Glen Haven W.C., Scott, Cortland Co. N.Y." — I wrote to John Edwd. yesterday, asking to be excused under the circumstances from stopping over Syracuse next Sunday, yet adding that if it were to be a serious disappointment to any body (which I could not anticipate or suppose) that I *should* *not* *preach* at Syracuse next Sunday, *I* wd. still remain there & preach while my party went on to Geneva. — My proposition to spend the day at Syracuse was based on 2 principal reasons — 1st. To make a visit to yourself and family. 2d. To give you a day's rest, by preaching myself if you would like to have me do so. Now *we* lose a very important part of the former by the absence of yourself and of Joseph from home; and, what is even more to the purpose, *You* do not get the day's rest which I proposed, by my preaching in your absence. These reasons led Sarah to advise, and me after 24 hours reflection to take the advice, to defer the Syracuse

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preaching to another time, — which I the more readily decided to do, as I am expecting to be in S. again in October next.

Our next point of stop, after Syracuse, is Geneva, where our dear crippled friend Elizabeth Hall resides, never to leave Geneva again, we suppose. Both Sarah and myself ~~arranged~~ desire greatly to see her, and we arranged that a visit to her should be among the first things in our journey. — Sarah decides therefore that it will be better for us in the circumstances to pass the Sunday at Geneva. Our intent is to stop in Syracuse on Saturday and pass a little time and go on at evening to G., which will give us a very good and quiet opportunity of seeing Miss H.

But, as I wrote to John Edwd, I hold myself ready to carry out any plan of preaching that shall be thought important in the case, and will myself remain at S. while my wife and her sister (who we expect will accompany us) go on to Geneva.

I leave these words of explanation, that you may understand the reasons of our change of plan. Your absence from home is the sole moving power in the case. Of course, our visit could not be what it would if you & Joseph were there — the two whom my wife feels the best acquainted with — and I should lose one main object of my preaching. I infer that the pulpit will not be vacant, though I am not there.

We feel very sorry that we shall miss you & Jos. both here and at S. I wish you could stop and rest at Leicester. Ade. will be housekeeper in our absence & will be delighted to entertain you & Joe.

I want to see that Pierpont correspondence very much. I should have asked to see it, if I might, — even though you had not alluded to it. I suppose now I must wait another opportunity.

The parcel you long ago asked to have sent to you by T. Parker, you will find at father's house awaiting you. With love to Joseph, Affly Yrs S. May Jr.

P.S. I want you to understand that both Sarah and I came to the conclusion that it would be better "all round" for us to defer ~~your~~ visit to your family to another time. To remain at S. over 2 nights, in your absence, would add a good deal to the cares of your wife and her sister, and would tax Charlotte too hard in this season of her trial. — But I shall decide without hesitation to stop there, if I think I am really needed.

S. May Jr
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